HF Happenings 879

December
23 – Ursids meteor shower
23 to 30 - Hanukkah
25 – Christmas Day
26 – Family Day
31 - End of the 2019 CQ DX Marathon and the YOTA month

January 2020
1 – Download the 2020 Blue Book; New Year's Day; start of the CQ DX Marathon
3 and 4 - Quadrantids meteor shower
4 – ARRL Kids Day
4 and 5 – ARRL RTTY Roundup
15 – Provincial schools open; SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint; Synopsis of papers for AMSAT SA symposium to be submitted
16 to 20 - Wolfkop Weekender, Citrusdal
17 to 19 – PEARS National VHF/UHF contest
21 - Highway ARC meeting
25 - CTARC meeting; Summer QRP Contest; Delheim Harvest Festival
25 and 26 - BARTG Sprint Contest
26 - Sani Pass Wild Flower Walk
31 - Closing date for AGM motions, Award nominations and Council nominations

Apart from the celebration of SARL 95 in 2020, it is also 200 years since the arrival of the 1820 Settlers in South Africa. On 17 March 1820, the first Settler ship arrived in Cape Town. About 60 different parties landed in Algoa Bay between April and June 1820. They were granted farms near the village of Bathurst in the Eastern Cape and other settlements in the area. A group of the 1820 Settlers continued on to Natal. Here is an opportunity for a Club to activate a special event station to celebrate this event.

Some Contesting in January 2020

The ARRL Kids Day will be on the air on Saturday 4 January. The first leg of the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint will be on the air on Wednesday 15 January, with the PEARS National VHF/UHF contest over the weekend of 17 to 19 January. The Summer QRP contest will run on Saturday 25 January.

OQRS Hints & Tips

Tim, M0URX has added a page on his website to explain how to use his Online QSL Request System, go to https://www.m0urx.com/ and find "OQRS Hints & Tips" in the dropdown menu under "How to QSL". This is the same system used by M0OXO: "an integrated on-line bespoke Log Search, OQRS and QSL Manager application", which "offers useful tools for DXers and DXpeditions and strongly supports the QSL manager workload automating the most time consuming QSLing processes".

African DX

Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award (www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp)

Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, 9Q. Fernando, EA4BB (ex-9Q5BB, D2BB, ST2BF, TU5JL, TZ6BB, Z21BB), who has been active as 9Q6BB from the Democratic Republic of the Congo for nearly 4 years, is now QRT. He dismantled his Goma station on 18 December, after making 26 000 QSOs. QSL via W3HNK, LoTW or eQSL.

The Gambia, C5. Przemyslaw, SP3PS, who became a resident of Gambia in 2017, will once again be active as C5SP from Sanyang between 27 December and 17 January. Activity will be on 20 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8/FT4. He will mainly call on 20 m, but will also try to run on other bands, including LF in SSB. QSL via SP3PS, direct, LoTW or eQSL.
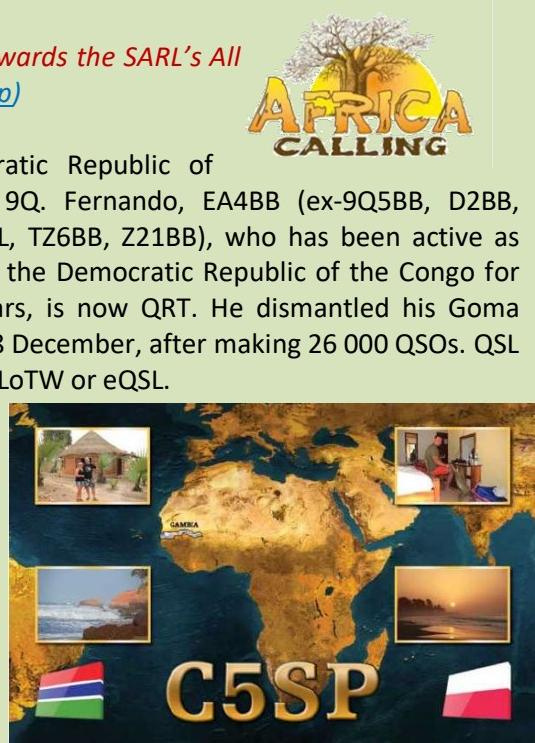
Algeria, 7X. Members of the "Association des Radio Amateurs Tunisiens" (ARAT) are traveling to Algeria to conduct a joint Low Bands DXpedition with five members of the "Amateurs Radio Algeriens" (ARA) between 28 December and 2 January 2020. The team is led by Afif, 7X2RO and Ash, 3V8SS/KF5EYY, and will also include Ahmed, 3V1B/KG5OUE (22 years), Marwa, 3V8CB (24 years, YL), Mohamed, 7X3TL (27 years), Mohamed, 7X5FG, Redha, 7X5QB and Abdelghani, 7X2TT/M0NPT. The operators will be focusing on working as many stations as possible on 160 and 80 metres as well as the other HF bands and Satellites. Modes will be CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via 7X2RO and LoTW. There will be ClubLog Live Streaming. For more details on how to help and/or LF skeds, E-mail Ash at ash.kf5eyy@gmail.com. Your financial support will be used to cover youngsters' costs.

South Sudan, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ has been back in Juba, South Sudan since 13 December and will remain there for "at least six months". In his spare time, he will be active as Z81D on 80 to 10 metres SSB, FT8 and maybe FT4. QSL via Club Log's OQRS, or via OM3JW. He does not use LoTW.

Senegal, 6W. Willy, ON4AVT, will once again be active as 6W7/ON4AVT some time in February 2020. His main activity will be on 60 metres using mostly FT8, with some CW and SSB, with a FT-891 with 100 watts into a HyEndFed antenna. QSL via the Bureau. For more details and updates, watch https://www.on4avt.be/trip_to_senegal.htm

Djibouti, J2. Tom, DJ6TF, Manfred, DK1BT, Wolf, DL4WK, Annette, DL6SAK, Tom, DL7BO, Sigi, DL7DF, Frank, DL7UFR and Leszek, SP3DOI will be active from Djibouti between 4 and 16 March 2020. Their call sign is pending. They will have three stations on the air from 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. Their equipment consists of an Elecraft K2 transceiver, three Icom IC7300 transceivers, four power amplifiers, bandpass filters, a vertical for 160 and 80 m, a 40 m loop, a 30 m loop, a Spiderbeam for 20 to 10 m, loop antennas for 20, 15 and 10 m and a beverage. Pilot station for this DXpedition is Bernd, DF3CB. QSL via DL7DF, direct or by the DARC Bureau. They will upload the full logs of the DXpedition to LoTW within 6 months after the DXpedition. For more details and updates, see http://www.dl7df.com/j2

African Islands

IOTA Frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Rodrigues Island, 3B9. David, F8AAN, will be active as 3B9AN or 3B9/F8AAN from Rodrigues Island (AF-017) between 9 and 18 March 2020. Activity will be on 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17 and 15 metres CW. QSL via his home call sign, direct or ClubLog's OQRS.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 23 to 30 December 2019

SKCC Sprint
00:00 - 02:00 UTC 25 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC No or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 27 December 2019
E-mail log summary to: (none)
Post log summary at:
www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/submit-display.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 25 December
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 27 December 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 25 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 26 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 28 December 2019
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/

DARC Christmas Contest
08:30 – 10:59 UTC 26 December
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 80, 40 m
Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or mixed - low or high
Max operating hours: 2,5 hours
Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: <=100 W
Exchange: DL: RS(T) and DOK (or "NM" if not a DARC member); non-DL: RS(T) and QSO No.
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: DOK, once per band; Prefixes, once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 13 January 2020
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/weihnachtswettbewerb/logupload/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/weihnachtswettbewerb/en/

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 27 December
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 29 December 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 December
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW

Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 29 December 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

RAC Winter Contest
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 28 December
Mode: CW, Phone
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op CW; Single Op Phone; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single - low or high; Multi-Multi
Max operating hours: 24 hours
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: VE: RS(T) and province or territory; non-VE and VE0: RS(T) and serial no
QSO Points: VE/VE0: 10 points; non-VE/VE0: 2 points; RAC official stations: 20 points
Multipliers: VE provinces and territories (13), once per mode per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 January 2020
E-mail logs to: canadawinter@rac.ca
Mail logs to: Radio Amateurs of Canada, 720 Belfast Road, Suite 217, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 0Z5, Canada
Find rules at: https://wp.rac.ca/rac-canada-winter-contest-rules-2019/

Gedebage CW Contest
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 28 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Indonesian Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Indonesian Single Op 40 m - QRP, low or high; Indonesian Multi-Op - low or high; DX Single Op All Band; DX Multi-Op
Max power: HP: 1 000 watts; LP: 100 watts
Exchange: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with different country same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent
Multipliers: Each prefix once per band; Each DXCC country once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 12 January 2020
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://olkb.or.id/gedebage-contest/2019
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://olkb.or.id

Stew Perry Topband Challenge
15:00 UTC 28 December to 15:00 UTC 29 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160 m Only
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Op - QRP, low or high
Max operating hours: 14 hours
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 5 - 100 watts; QRP: <5 watts
Exchange: 4-Character grid square
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO plus 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x power multiplier
Submit logs by: 12 January 2020
E-mail logs to: tbdc@kkn.net
Upload log at: www.b4h.net/stew/tbdcsubmitlog.php
Mail logs to: BARC, 50335 NW Hayward Rd, Manning, OR 97125, USA

Find rules at: www.kkn.net/stew/

Original QRP Contest
15:00 UTC 28 December to 15:00 UTC 29 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op – VLP, QRP or MP – Handmade or Open
Max operating hours: 15 hours
Max power: VLP: 1 W; QRP: 5 W; MP: 20 W
Exchange: RST and Serial No. and "/" and Power category
QSO Points: QSO with station who submits log: 4 points; QSO with station that does not submit log: 1 point; 15% bonus for use of TR/TRX assembled from kit; 30% bonus for use of unique handmade TR/TRX
Multipliers: DXCC Countries: 2 mult points if station submits log, 1 mult point if no log
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mult points
Submit logs by: 31 January 2020
E-mail logs to: oqrpc@qrpcc.de
Mail logs to: Lutz Gutheil, DL1RNN, Bergstrasse 17, D-38446 Wolfsburg, Germany
Find rules at: http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/oqrpr.html

RAEM Contest
00:00 – 11:59 UTC 29 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single; SWL
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts
Exchange: Serial no and latitude (degs only) and longitude (degs only) N=North, S=South, W=West, O=East (e.g. 57N 85O)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 50 points and 1 point for every degree difference in geo location, both latitude and longitude; QSO with Polar station: 100 points additional; QSO with RAEM Memorial Station: 300 points additional
Multipliers: Polar stations multiply total QSO points by 1.1

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 28 January 2020
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://ua9qcq.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://raem.srr.ru/en/main/

QCX Challenge
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 30 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 31 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op

Max power: HP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and Rig
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with QCX station; 1 point per QSO with non-QCX station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 2 January 2020
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.qrp-labs.com/party.html

Next Week's Contests

QCX Challenge, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 30 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 31 December
Bogor Old and New Contest, 09:00 - 23:59 UTC 31 December
AGB New Year Snowball Contest, 00:00 - 01:00 UTC 1 January
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 1 January
Phone Fray, 0230 - 03:00 UTC 1 January
SARTG New Year RTTY Contest, 08:00 - 1100 UTC 1 January
AGCW Happy New Year Contest, 09:00 - 12:00 UTC 1 January
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 1 January and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 2 January
QRP ARCI New Year's Sprint, 15:00 - 18:00 UTC 1 January
UKEICC 80 m Contest, 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 1 January
NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (CW) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (FM) and 21:00 - 22:00 UTC 2 January (Dig)
SKCC Sprint Europe, 20:00 - 22:00 UTC 2 January
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 3 January
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 3 January
NCCC Sprint, 0230 - 03:00 UTC 3 January
PODXS 070 Club PSKFest, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 4 January
WW PMC Contest, 12:00 UTC 4 January to 12:00 UTC 5 January
RSGB AFS CW Contest, 13:00 - 17:00 UTC 4 January
ARRL RTTY Roundup, 18:00 UTC 4 January to 24:00 UTC 5 January
ARRL Kids Day, 18:00 - 23:59 UTC 4 January
EUCW 160 m Contest, 20:00 - 23:00 UTC 4 January and 04:00 - 07:00 UTC 5 January
IQRP Quarterly Marathon, 08:00 UTC 6 January to 20:00 UTC 12 January
ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 7 January

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter